CLAIMS

Therefore, having thus described the invention, at least the following is claimed:

1. A system for preventing unauthorized use of property, the property comprising:

an image capture system configured to capture an image of an object, and further configured to generate data corresponding to the image of the captured image;

an image key, the image key corresponding to the object;

a processor configured to compare the image key with the data corresponding to the captured image, and further configured to enable use of the property only if the data corresponding to the captured image corresponds to the image key; and

a security timer configured to time a period of time such that the processor compares the image key with the data corresponding to the captured image after the period of time has elapsed.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the property comprises at least one selected from a group consisting of a digital camera, a personal computer, a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant, an automobile, a boat, an airplane and an enclosure.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the security timer is a hardware component coupled to the processor and configured to communicate a signal to the processor indicating that the period of time has elapsed.

4. The system of claim 1, further comprising a memory configured to store the security timer as logic such that the processor executes the security timer logic to time the period of time.

5. The system of claim 1, further comprising a time adjuster configured to adjust the period of time timed by the security timer.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the time adjuster comprises at least one selected from a group consisting of at least one touch-sensitive button, at least one pushbutton, a touch pad display and a menu displayed on a display.

7. A method for providing security to property, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an image key, the image key corresponding to an image of an object;

receiving a captured image of the object from an image capture device;

timing a time period;

comparing the image key with the captured image of the object; and

enabling use of the property only if the image key corresponds to the captured image of the object.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of disabling the property when the image key does not correspond to the captured image of the object, wherein the step of disabling the property is performed at the conclusion of the time period.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the property comprises at least one selected from a group consisting of a digital camera, a personal computer, a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant, an automobile, a boat, an airplane and an enclosure.

10. The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

generating the image key from a second captured image of the object; and

saving the image key in a memory, the steps of generating and saving performed before the steps of receiving, comparing and enabling.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of timing the time period further includes the steps of:

communicating activation of the property to a security timer; and

communicating an end of timing period to a processor such that the processor performs the steps of receiving, comparing and enabling.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of timing a time period further includes the steps of:

executing a security timer logic residing in a memory with a processor; and

beginning the steps of receiving, comparing and enabling when the time period has elapsed.

13. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of adjusting the time period.

14. A program for preventing the unauthorized use of property, the image key corresponding to a stored digital image of an object, the program being stored as a computer readable medium, the program comprising:

logic configured to retrieve an image key, the image key corresponding to a stored digital image of an object;

logic configured to receive digital data corresponding to a most recently captured image of the object;

logic configured to time a period of time;

logic configured to compare the most recently captured image of the object and the image key; and

logic configured to enable the use of the property only if the most recently captured image of the object corresponds to the image key.

15. The program of claim 14, further comprising logic configured to disable the property if the most recently captured image of the object does not correspond to the image key when the period of time has elapsed.

16. The program of claim 14, further comprising logic configured to time a period of time such that the logic configured to enable is executed when the period of time has elapsed.

17. The program of claim 14, further comprising logic configured to receive a time adjustment communication such that the period of time is adjusted.

18. A method for providing security to property having an image capture device, the method comprising the steps of:

capturing a first image of an object with the image capture device;

generating an image key, the image key corresponding to the first image of the object;

capturing a second image of the object with the image capture device;

comparing the image key with the second image of the object; and

enabling use of the property only if the image key corresponds to the second image of the object.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of disabling the property when the image key does not correspond to the captured image of the object.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the property having the image capture device comprises at least one selected from a group consisting of a digital camera, a personal computer, a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant, an automobile, a boat, an airplane and an enclosure.

21. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of timing a time period such that the steps of comparing and enabling are performed at the conclusion of the time period.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of timing the time period further includes the steps of:

communicating activation of the property to a security timer; and

communicating end of timing period to a processor such that the processor performs the steps of comparing and enabling.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of timing further includes the steps of:

executing a security timer logic residing in a memory with a processor; and

beginning the steps of comparing and enabling when the time period has elapsed.

24. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of adjusting the time period.